

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 01116 140931 Z

13

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 070756

O 140730 Z APR 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2903

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T CAIRO 1116

EXDIS// NOFORN

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPU

SUBJECT: LIBYAN MIRAGE TRANSFER TO EGYPT

REF: USDAO TEL AVIV 0553 121429 Z APR 73

1. REFTEL REPORTS THAT EIGHT MIRAGE-5 AIRCRAFT FLEW FROM WHEELUS TO EGYPTIAN AIR BASE AT BIRMA ON APRIL 10, AND IAF NOW CONVINCED THAT AIRLIFT BETWEEN LIBYA AND EGYPT WAS IN SUPPORT OF LIBYAN MIRAGE-5 DELIVERIES TO EGYPT. IT OCCURS TO US THAT TRANSFER OF LIBYAN MIRAGES TO EGYPT ALONG WITH RUMORED TRANSFER OF LIGHTNINGS TO EGYPT FROM KUWAIT OR SAUDI ARABIA COULD BECOME JUSTIFICATION FOR GOI DECISION TO LAUNCH PREEMPTIVE STRIKE ON EGYPTIAN AIRFIELDS WITH OBJECT OF KNOCKING OUT THE MIRAGES.

2. WHILE ISRAELIS MIGHT VIEW SUCH A MOVE AS MEANS OF "SOFTENING UP" SADAT TO MAKE HIM MORE AMENABLE TO ISRAELI TERMS ON NEGOTIATIONS, IT SEEMS MORE LIKELY TO US THAT AN AIRSTRIKE ON EGYPT AT THIS TIME WOULD FURTHER ENFLAME EGYPTIAN PASSIONS, MAKE MODERATE COURSE IN UN AND OTHER FORA MORE DIFFICULT FOR EGYPT, AND FURTHER POSTPONE DAY WHEN EGYPTIAN LEADERSHIP COULD NEGOTIATE REASONABLE SETTLEMENT TO OUTSTANDING ISSUES BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL. IT WOULD ALSO PROVIDE FURTHER FUEL TO ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENT NOW RUNNING HIGH AS RESULT OF ISRAELI BEIRUT RAID.

3. EMBASSY TEL AVIV MAY WISH TO COMMENT.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review History: RELEASED <10-Dec-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <03-Jan-2002 by morefirh>
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30 JUN 2005

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SS INFO TEL AVIV
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